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PENNSYLVANIA MAN CHARGED IN INTERNET SEX TRAVEL CASE

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today Thomas C. Moser, age 37, of Lehigh, Pennsylvania, has been charged by criminal complaint with using the internet to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity, interstate travel to engage in a sexual act with a minor and using the internet to obtain control of a minor for the purpose of producing child pornography. Moser was arrested on Friday, September 9, 2005, by United States Postal inspectors in Frederick, Maryland as the result of an on-line investigation in which a postal inspector posed as the divorced mother of 14 and 12 year-old daughters.

According to the affidavit filed in support of the application for criminal complaint, in May 2005, Moser contacted the undercover postal inspector in an internet chat room partially entitled "incest." Moser continued his on-line conversations with the postal inspector and asked if he could travel from his home in Pennsylvania to Frederick, Maryland in order to have sexual relations with the undercover postal inspector's 14 and 12 year-old daughters. Moser also stated he would bring photographic equipment with him to record his sexual activities with the girls.

The affidavit states that the postal inspector and Moser agreed to meet on September 9, 2005, at a store in Frederick, Maryland. After confirming by telephone that he was on the way, Moser arrived in Frederick, Maryland at the agreed upon time and was arrested by federal agents and detectives from the Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

Moser appeared yesterday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Beth P. Gesner who ordered him detained pending a detention hearing to be held today at 2:45 p.m. in U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

The penalty for using the internet to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity and interstate travel to engage in a sexual act is a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 30 years in prison. The penalty for using the internet to obtain control of a minor for the purpose of producing child pornography is a minimum of 30 years and a maximum of life in prison.

A criminal complaint is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by criminal complaint is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein commended the investigative work of the United States Postal Inspection Service, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Maryland State Police and Frederick County Sheriff's Office which are assisting in the case. Mr. Rosenstein also thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew G.W. Norman who is prosecuting the case.